



## *Responding to climate change in partnership with our Pacific Island neighbours*

*Patrons: Mrs Bonita Mabo and Most Rev Bishop Peter Ingham*

### **Australian Awards Fellowship Program**

**February – March 2018**

#### **Resilient leaders: Leading in challenging contexts**

The Edmund Rice Centre is delighted to be running this Australian Government funded Awards Fellowships Program in conjunction with the University of Sydney. The PCP-delivered program, *Resilient leaders: Leading in challenging contexts*, is part of the Federal Government's Australia Awards. The Awards offer the next generation of global leaders in the Pacific region an opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development which will help them contribute to development in their home countries.

Eight leaders from Kiribati, four from non government organisations and four educators, are participating in the 8-week academic program which commenced on 1 February.

The Program is structured around academic and practical modules with workshops on the science of climate change, climate justice, media, advocacy and, of course, leadership. There is a field trip to Canberra and many opportunities to address politicians and community groups. This is a great opportunity to strengthen leadership in Kiribati and for the ERC and for the PCP to grow its understanding of Kiribati.

#### **We welcome the Australian Awards Fellows:**

**Ms Claire Anterea** is a founding member of the Kiribati Climate Action Network – KiriCAN. She is currently working for the World Bank under the Kiribati Adaptation Programme Phase III as the Community Engagement Support Expert. Her work focusses on rain water harvesting at North Tarawa, infiltration galleries in North Tarawa, coastal protection in South Tarawa and a pilot water improving Zone.

As the Community Engagement Expert she works closely with the engineers to understand the full scale of the work so that she can explain to the community what the work might be and what the community expects to contribute and do about the work. She needs to be there to journey with the people and the project at the same time to avoid any confusion and misunderstandings.

#### **Ms Kaokatekai Kaino Riwata**

Kaokatekai was born on Fanning Island, one of the most remote islands in the Line Islands within the Kiribati group. In the old days it was very difficult to reach this place due to transport and distance problems. Kaokatekai's parents were fortunate to be there as government officials.

Kaokatekai is a Senior education officer at the Ministry of Education and is responsible for Early Childhood Care & Education. The primary objective of her position is the supervision and coordination of the pre-school education in the country ensuring that teaching and learning processes are of high quality.

**Ms Maike Pilitati (Pelenise) Pelenise** was born on Rabi Island in Fiji, an island belonging to the resettled Banabans. She says she learnt much about cross cultural competency from her parents as they were from two different cultures - her father is Tuvaluan and her mother Banaban I-Kiribati. Over the last five years she has been the In-Country Coordinator for the European Union Global Climate Change Project with the University of the South Pacific (USP). She is currently the National Coordinator for the Kiribati Climate Action Network (KiriCAN), the Live & Learn Environmental Education and advisor to the Kiribati Health Retreat Association. Her role is to manage all their programs in Kiribati.

**Mr Moritio Baraniko** works as a curriculum development officer. He was born in Rabi, one of the islands of Fiji. His mother is from Banaba Island in Kiribati which was mined for its phosphate. In 1987, he migrated to Kiribati with his parents and two siblings where he continued his education. He believes his destiny is to support a quality education system in Kiribati.

**Ms Orabwa Tion Principal, Bonriki**

Orobwa was born and grew up on her great grandfather's island Onotoa in the southern part of the Kiribati. She graduated from the Kiribati Teachers College with a Certificate in Primary Teaching in 1989 and began her teaching career in outer island schools in 1990. In 2007 she attended a one year upgrading course and graduated with a Diploma in Primary Teaching. In 2011 she attended the TESOL program from Australia conducted in Kiribati Teachers College. She was then selected to be the Head Teacher starting from 2012 to 2016 on outer island schools where she learned and experienced different cultures from communities. In 2017, she was appointed to Acting Education Office to help in dealing with school matters.

**Ms Rakentai Momoe Teumauma**

Rakentai was born on the island of Tabiteuea Meang and works as an Education Officer (EO) for the Junior Secondary School (JSS) in the School Improvement Unit within the Ministry of Education. She found growing up on an island fun and very enjoyable: "I used to happily meet my father when he came back from fishing in his small canoe. I ran to swim in the sea towards his canoe. He picked me up to board the canoe. I searched for the fish inside the canoe and I was very happy to see plenty of fish in different sizes and colours." Some of her roles as an EO include leadership and management to uplift teachers' teaching capacity; monitor JSS teachers and Principals' performance and mentor them to enhance quality; design and carry out professional development programs for teachers and school leaders and compiling and analysis of data for JSS.

**Ms Taiman Bunaua** was born at Abaokoro, the capital of North Tarawa and graduated in 1992 with a Certificate for Primary teaching and started her teaching career. In 2013 and 2014 she assisted primary teachers with the introduction of a new curriculum. In 2015 she returned to her prior post as a head teacher until 2016. She is now acting Education Officer taking care of the Northern District Primary schools. While in this position she is learning and gaining lots of experience and facing lots of issues concerning primary level schools.

**Ms Tebataua Karotu** spent her childhood at different schools as her father worked as a Court Clerk on different islands. This gave her an understanding of the different aspects of Kiribati culture, lifestyle and language which made her realise the importance of culture within Kiribati. In 2008 she became an Olympic Solidarity Officer and became an activist in sport development for youth and women. She also works as an Administrator and is involved in Kiribati Women in Sport Commission as Secretary. She believes that by encouraging women to be involved in sports it can bring hope for a better life and for a better future. Women are the core for change from within families, communities, islands and the

country.

*"The Australian Awards complement the work of the Federal government's New Colombo Plan. International alumni are influencers and leaders in their home countries and through our Global Alumni Strategy, we grow a community that strengthens and maintains our regional connections. Together, the New Colombo Plan and the Australian Awards deepen Australia's engagement with the region and facilitate genuine two-way educational exchange." The Australian Awards Fellowship.*

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## Resilience in Action

An extraordinary example of resilience in action was demonstrated at the launch of our Australian Awards Fellowship program on Thursday 1st of February. The tragic sinking of a boat in Kiribati waters occurred just days before the eight Kiribati fellows were to leave for Australia. Despite personal connections to the tragedy, all eight arrived in Australia determined to begin and complete the program.

The MV Butiraoi ferry left Nonouti Island on 18 January for a two-day, 250km trip to Betio, the largest township of Kiribati's capital city, South Tarawa.

88 people were on board the ferry when it sank, including twenty-two children on their way to start a new school term.

One 14-year-old girl was among seven survivors rescued in the central Pacific a week after the ferry sank. Their wooden dinghy had no engine, water, food or radio.

At the launch of the Kiribati Fellowship program Claude Mostovic lead us in lament to acknowledge the tragic boat sinking which resulted in the loss of many lives. Part of the lament reads:

*Most merciful and compassionate God,*

*Giver of Life and Love,*

*hear our prayers and let our cries come unto you.*

*We weep with your people,*

*Our hearts are hushed, our minds are numb.*

*God of healing and mercy we come before you with our hearts filled with grief as we see the recent loss of life in the disaster on the sea at Kiribati.....*

*We do not know how many people have lost their lives but like the sparrow that falls to the ground, you know who they are and hold them close to your heart.*

*Be with all those who are in pain, who were rescued and injured, and with all who have lost loved ones.....*

*Open through this tragedy pathways to partnerships and peace*

*We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, your Son.*

## Talking Justice in the Pacific

Are Australians good neighbours in our region? How do Australian companies and policies impact our Pacific neighbours? And what is being done to work with colleagues and activists to address these questions?

Join [Jubilee Australia](#), acclaimed Australian author Tim Winton, Lucielle Paru, a Papua New Guinean human rights activist, PCP Fellow Pelenise Alofa and others for a fascinating discussion of these

issues on 16 February in Marrickville.

**When** 16<sup>th</sup> of February 7-9 pm

**Where** Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville

**Tickets** \$35 Students and seniors \$25

**What else?** Entertainment from both Australian and Pacific culture, snacks and drinks - all included in the ticket price! Food is by Marrickville-based Italian catering company GoGo VeGo owned by Alessio Angione who is on a mission to bring you the Italian joy of eating well.

**You can buy the tickets on [Eventbrite](#), or directly on [Facebook](#).**

*Jubilee Australia is a division of The Australia Institute that promotes economic justice and corporate accountability for communities in the Asia-Pacific region.*



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